

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 MC-02 T-03 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 ACDA-19 GAC-01 DPW-01

AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 NIC-01 COA-02 COME-00 INT-08

RSR-01 /174 W

----- 071008

R 160927 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8368

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 2206

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, EAID, PK, IN, UR

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET EMBASSY ON ARMS AND
SITUATION IN THE SUBCONTINENT

BEGIN SUMMARY. CHARGE EXPLAINED TO SOV EMBASSY OFFICIAL
VARIOUS ASPECTS OF RECENT USG ARMS DECISIONS, HIGHLIGHT-
ING THEIR LIMITED MILITARY EFFECT AND OUR CONTINUED EMPHASIS ON
NEED FOR FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARD NORMALIZATION IN SUB-
CONTINENT. SOV OFFICIAL AGREED THAT PAK POWS REMAIN
CURRENT CENTRAL, IMMEDIATE ISSUE IN WAY OF RENEWED
PROGRESS TOWARD POLITICAL NORMALIZATION AMONG PAKISTAN,
INDIA AND BANGLADESH. HE NOTED THAT USSR IS GOING
FORWARD WITH VARIOUS ECONOMIC AID PROJECTS IN PAKISTAN.
END SUMMARY.

1. NEWLY ARRIVED SOVIET MINISTER- COUNSELOR ILLARIONOV,
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IN INTRODUCTORY CALL ON CHARGE MARCH 16, STARTED OUT
FRANKLY ENOUGH BY ASKING ABOUT MEANING AND IMPACT OF

US MILITARY SUPPLY DECISIONS FOR PAKISTAN AND INDIA ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK. HE ASKED WHETHER WE WERE NOT CONCERNED ABOUT UPSETTING PROSPECTS FOR NORMALIZATION BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND INDIA, AS REFLECTED IN OUTBURSTS FROM NEW DELHI. CHARGE TOOK OCCASION TO GIVE ILLARIONOV EXTENDED EXPLANATION OF BACKGROUND OF THIS WEEK'S DECISIONS. HE NOTED THEY HAD COME WELL OVER A YEAR SINCE TOTAL MILITARY EMBARGO WAS PLACED INTO EFFECT AND REFLECTED MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BY USG. ALL ASPECTS. WE HAD ANTICIPATED ADVERSE REACTION FROM GOI, BUT HOPED THERE WOULD NOT BE OVERREACTION. CHARGE SAID THERE WERE SOME POINTS THAT HE THOUGHT IMPORTANT FOR ILLARIONOV (AND SOVIET GOVERNMENT) TO UNDERSTAND. FIRST, PRIME USG INTEREST IN SUBCONTINENT WAS THAT THERE BE PEACE AMONG NATIONS OF THE AREA, BASED ON ACCOMMODATION OF THEIR PRINCIPAL DIFFERENCES. IN THIS REGARD, US STRONGLY SUPPORTED MOVEMENT TOWARD PEACE BEGUN LAST YEAR AT SIMLA. AS TO ARMS DECISION ITSELF, CHARGE WENT ON, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IT ENTAILS AND WHAT IT DOES NOT ENTAIL. COMMITMENTS ENTERED INTO PRIOR TO 1971 TROUBLES IN SUBCONTINENT WOULD BE CARRIED OUT. THESE INVOLVED RELEASING GOODS TO PAKISTAN VALUED AT ABOUT \$14 MILLION, AND GOODS TO INDIA VALUED AT ABOUT \$19 MILLION. THEN, USG WAS REVERTING TO PRE-1971 POLICY OF SUPPLYING, TO BOTH INDIA AND PAKISTAN, ONLY NON-LETHAL EQUIPMENT AND SPARE PARTS FOR PREVIOUSLY SUPPLIED LETHAL EQUIPMENT. WE CONSIDERED THAT THESE ACTIONS WOULD NOT APPRECIABLY AFFECT INDIA'S STRONG MILITARY SUPERIORITY OVER PAKISTAN. FINAL POINT CONCERNING OUR ARMS DECISION, WHICH CHARGE SAID HE WISHED TO EMPHASIZE TO ILLARIONOV, IS THAT BY AFFIRMING POLICY AS STATED ABOVE, USG WAS TELLING BOTH INDIA AND PAKISTAN THAT WE WOULD NOT DELIVER TO EITHER COUNTRY ANY FIGHTER AIRCRAFT OR BOMBERS OR TANKS OR GUNS; THAT HAD BEEN OUR POLICY SINCE 1965.

2. ILLARIONOV SAID HE UNDERSTOOD POINTS CHARGE HAD MADE ABOUT MILITARY IMPORTANCE OF OUR DECISIONS. HE ASKED WHETHER WE WERE NOT CONCERNED, HOWEVER, OVER PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE. CHARGE RESPONDED THAT WE CONFIDENTIAL

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HOPED OVERALL IMPORTANCE OF OUR DECISIONS WOULD BE KEPT IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE. USG WISHED TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH BOTH PAKISTAN AND INDIA. WE DID NOT WISH TO BE INVOLVED IN AN ARMS RACE IN SUBCONTINENT. CHARGE SAID HE WONDERED WHETHER USSR WAS PREPARED, FOR ITS PART, TO ADOPT AS RESTRAINED A POSTURE AS USG ON MILITARY SUPPLY TO SUBCONTINENT. HE THOUGHT GOP HAD BEEN FOLLOWING A PRETTY REALISTIC POLICY IN NOT CRITICIZING USSR SHARPLY FOR ITS CONTINUING SUPPLY OF

SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS TO INDIA. ILLARIONOV PARRIED THAT QUESTION AND COMMENT WITH A NOD. THIS PART OF CONVERSATION CONCLUDED WITH CHARGE' S COMMENT THAT WE THOUGHT IT IN INTEREST OF BOTH US AND USSR THAT MILITARY ISSUE NOT BE OVERBLOWN AND GET IN WAY OF EFFORTS OF BOTH INDIA AND PAKISTAN TO MAKE TRUE PEACE; ILLARIONOV SAID HE AGREED WITH LATTER POINT.

3. ILLARIONOV ASKED ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER SPECIFIC MOVES FOR NORMALIZATION IN SUBCONTINENT. CHARGE SAID IT SEEMED TO HIM THAT IMMEDIATE PROSPECTS CENTERED PRINCIPALLY AROUND POWS. HE OBVIOUSLY COULD NOT SPEAK FOR GOP, BUT IT WAS HIS PERSONAL IMPRESSION THAT MOVEMENT ON POWS WAS INTEGRALLY RELATED WITH PAK DECISION ON PAK RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH. IT WOULD ALSO, CHARGE THOUGHT, LEAD TO RENEWED STEPS FOR NORMALIZATION BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN PER SIMLA ACCORD. ILLARIONOV OPINED THAT, ALTHOUGH NEW TO PAKISTAN AND STILL LEARNING, HE SHARES VIEW THAT POWS WERE INDEED CURRENT CRUCIAL ISSUE. (ILLARIONOV IS NO NOVICE TO SUBCONTINENT. HE SERVED AS COUNSELOR AT SOV EMBASSY IN NEW DELHI IN EARLY 1960' S AND IN PAST SEVERAL YEARS HAS WORKED ON SUBCONTINENT MATTERS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY IN MOSCOW.)

4. CHARGE ASKED WHETHER GOP HAD OFFICIALLY PROTESTED TO USSR ON FISHING BY SOV TRAWLERS IN OFFSHORE WATERS NEAR KARACHI, AS REPORTED THAT MORNING' S LOCAL PRESS. ILLARIONOV RESPONDED THAT ISSUE HAD BEEN RAISED BY PAK OFFICIALS, BUT DENIED THERE HAD BEEN ANY PROTEST OR OFFICIAL REQUEST BY GOP CONCERNING THESE TRAWLERS. HE NOTED THAT SOVIET ECONOMIC MISSION, WHICH IS NOW IN LAST STAGES OF VISIT TO PAKISTAN, HAD BEEN REVIEWING STATUS OF VARIOUS SOV PROJECTS, INCLUDING STEEL MILL NEAR KARACHI (WHOSE PROPOSED LOCATION HAD BEEN CHANGED
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BY GOP FOR REASONS UNCLEAR TO USSR), POWER PLANT, POWER TRANSMISSION LINES, AND TRANSMITTER FOR PAK RADIO CORP. HE SAID SOVS WERE CONTINUING THEIR WORK ON THESE PROJECTS. HE WONDERED WHETHER GOOD PUBLICITY WHICH HAD EMANATED LOCALLY FROM PRESENCE OF SOV ECON MISSION WAS DELIBERATELY BEING OFFSET BY GOP BY BAD PUBLICITY ON SOV TRAWLERS OFFSHORE. HE THOUGHT IT NATURAL THAT SOME PEOPLE HERE WOULD SEEK TO BALANCE OFF GOOD PUBLICITY WITH BAD, ASSUMING THEY QUESTIONED GENERALLY SOVIET FRIENDSHIP FOR PAKISTAN. IN THIS REGARD, HE REFERRED LAICHLINGLY TO RECENT ALLEGATIONS BY GOP SOURCES CONCERNING OUTSIDE COMMUNIST SUPPORT FOR DISSIDENT ACTIVITIES IN BALUCHISTAN, INCLUDING A CHARGE THAT A NUMBER OF EAST GERMANS HAD BEEN TRAINING GUERRILLAS IN BALUCHISTAN: QTE ABSOLUTELY UNTRUE, UNQTE ILLARIONOV SAID. HE ALSO DENIED ANY INTENDED SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN IRAQI ARMS CAPER, AND

SHRUGGED OFF QUERY AS TO WHAT IRAQIS MAY HAVE TOLD MOSCOW ABOUT
THAT CURIOUS INCIDENT.
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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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